

*** Document 292 of 54 - r FBIS ***

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SUBJ*SUBJ: TAIWAN, MAINLAND UFO SYMPOSIUM CLOSURES IN BEIJING

SOUR SOURCE: BEIJING XINHUA IN ENGLISH 0836 GMT 7 DEC 93

TEXT TEXT:

- * //(("UFOS GALORE ACROSS TAIWAN STRAITS" -- XINHUA HEADLINE)) ((TEXT)) BEIJING, DECEMBER 7 (XINHUA) -- NEARLY 6,000 SIGHTINGS OF UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS (UFOS) ACROSS THE TAIWAN STRAITS HAVE BEEN REPORTED, SAID EXPERTS FROM THE CHINESE MAINLAND AND TAIWAN HERE TODAY. SOME HAVE DEFIED RATIONAL EXPLANATION.
- * WANG CHANGTING, CHAIRMAN OF THE CHINA UFO RESEARCH ORGANIZATION (CURO), SAID THAT MORE THAN 5,000 SIGHTINGS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM THE MAINLAND, AND SEVERAL HUNDREDS IN TAIWAN.
- * RESEARCHERS AT A THREE-DAY SYMPOSIUM ON UFOS, WHICH CLOSED HERE TODAY, SAID THAT SOME OF THE SIGHTINGS CANNOT BE EXPLAINED BY GENERAL KNOWLEDGE OR CURRENT SCIENTIFIC FINDINGS.
THE MEETING WAS THE FIRST OF ITS KIND ATTENDED BOTH BY TAIWAN AND MAINLAND RESEARCHERS.
- * THEY SAID THAT PEOPLE WHO HAD SEEN THE UFOS INCLUDED ASTRONOMICAL OBSERVATORY WORKERS AS WELL AS CIVIL AND MILITARY PILOTS.
- * CHINA DECIDED LAST YEAR TO STAGE A WORLD UFO CONFERENCE IN 1993. THE PLAN FELL THROUGH BECAUSE OF INSUFFICIENT PREPARATION.
BUT WANG SAID THAT THE CROSS-STRAITS MEETING WAS A CONTINUATION OF THE SEARCH FOR LIFE FORMS FROM OTHER SOLAR SYSTEMS -- ONE OF THE THEMES OF THE "1992 INTERNATIONAL SPACE YEAR".
ABOUT 50 RESEARCHERS AT THE SYMPOSIUM DISCUSSED THE REAL NATURE OF UFOS, WITH SOME OF THEM BELIEVING THEY CAME FROM REMOTE GALAXIES AND OTHERS SAYING THEY WERE NATURAL PHENOMENA OR ARTIFICIAL OBJECTS, SUCH AS LIGHTNING BOLTS, OR BALLOONS OR MAN-MADE SATELLITES.
- * THE FIRST REPORT OF A UFO, ALSO KNOWN AS FLYING SAUCERS, CAME FROM THE UNITED STATES IN 1947. IT BECAME A WIDESPREAD TOPIC IN TAIWAN IN THE 1960S, AND ON THE MAINLAND IN THE LATE 1970S.
THE LATEST SIGHTING WAS ON AUGUST 7 THIS YEAR, WHEN PEOPLE FOUND TWO RIM-LINKED HAT-LIKE OBJECTS SOARING OVER TAIPEI INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT FOR 15 MINUTES, MEDIA REPORTED.
THERE HAVE NOW BEEN 400,000 REPORTS OF SIGHTINGS WORLDWIDE. IN 1978 THE UNITED NATIONS CALLED ON THE GOVERNMENTS OF ALL COUNTRIES TO BE ON FULL ALERT FOR SIGHTINGS AND TO ESTABLISH UFO INVESTIGATION BODIES.
- * THE MAINLAND SET UP ITS OWN UFO INVESTIGATION BODY, CURO, IN 1978, WHICH IS NOW A MEMBER OF THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT-SUPPORTED CHINA ASSOCIATION FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY.
CURO HAS 3,600 MEMBERS AND MILLIONS OF FANS NATIONWIDE.
- * TAIWAN'S UFO RESEARCH BEGAN IN 1973.

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38

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